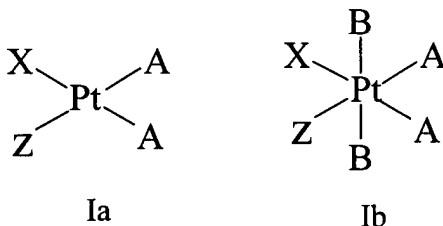


Abstract of the Disclosure

The present invention relates to platinum antitumor drugs. In particular, it relates to platinum complexes having formula Ia or Ib



5 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof

wherein:

each A is independently an anion;

each B is independently halo, hydroxy, carboxylate, carbamate or a carbonate ester,

10 Z is a substituted 5- or 6-membered, heterocyclic moiety wherein at least one substituent sterically hinders access of the Pt atom to a DNA strand of a tumor cell, and wherein Z is other than pyridine; and

X is NH₃ or mono- or dialkyl substituted NH₃.

15 which are active against cancer cells and have improved aqueous solubility and activity.